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21st of Nov., 1985. Having just listened to Mr. Regan's report on the summit, we have sitting in Nick Panuzio's office, two illustrious alumni. First of all I'm going to ask Vic Muniec to identify yourself and when you came to the univ, when you graduated, what you did at the univ. and what you are doing now.

Vic: I'm Vic Muniec I graduated from the Univ. of Bpt. in 1953. I enrolled in the fall of 1959 and by going summers was able to complete the bach. degree in three years.

Allen: You major was

Vic: I majored in business with a degree in journalism under Howard Boone Jacobson. It was a good background, I found, throughout my political life as well as my business life. And I went on the Boston Univ. to get a masters degree in Public Relations there and while a student at Boston Univ., the Univ. of Bpt. asked me to come back that fall and in the fall of 1954, I served as the Director of Public Relations and I served in that capacity for many years and was involved in both the cultural aspects in the program and especially the ? program and also in continuing education and then came down to Wash., D. C. in 78-79 and have - Currently I'm employed as a staff assistant in the office of International Cooperation and Development within the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and this is the agency that coordinates the international technical assistants in training programs overseas for the Dept. of Agriculture.

Allen: All right, Nick

Nick: I'm Nicholas Panuzio, Nick, I graduated from the univ. in 1957 and immediately when to work at the univ. and held over the next 14 years, seven titles. Asst. Director of Admissions, Asst. to the Bus. Mgr., Purchasing Dir., General Services, Dir. of the Student Center and finally Development Director. And became Mayor of the city of Bridgeport in 1971, I was in the legislature in 1970 and Mayor in 71 and again in 73 and ran for gov. in 74 and came to Washington in Sept. of 75 as Deputy Administrator of the General Services

Administration and as Commissioner of Public Bldgs. I started my own firm and am now pres. and owner of my own firm called Blackman, Manfort ~~Port~~, Stone and Kelly here in Alexandria.

Allen: O.K. now we've got the background. Let's talk about people, events and things that happened while you were at the Univ. You were both basically Littlefield men in the sense, were you not?

Nick: I guess I was the Littlefield man as much as I admired Jim Halsey, I guess by the nature of my jobs which were always reporting to Henry Littlefield and I became known as the Littlefield man although I have to admit that Jim Halsey was somebody I admired greatly.

Vic: I admired both of them and I think as many of the individuals at the univ. at that time felt that individually they had some very strong characteristics but combined ~~the~~ both the intelligence and ability and direction of both of them was good for the univ. and Jim Halsey was always considered more the idealist and international<sup>ist</sup> ~~is~~ ~~some~~ ~~time~~ the dreamer but a good basis in fact for a lot of his dreams and Dr. Littlefield was much more pragmatic, the real business manager and made sure we had the reasons for things that every one else wanted to do before we went ahead. And combined we, I think, felt a part of that team that we built a very solid univ. that was responsive to the needs of both the students and the people of the area, and region and beyond. I think my description of the university ~~was~~ at that time that it was a family that everybody seemed to know each other where all the faculty and administrators were on a first name basis. They knew each other, they knew the families and when anything went wrong ~~in~~ at home or a tragedy in the family there was a response from all sides and the same was true of the students themselves. I think there was an excellent relationship between the faculty members and student and I recall Bill Allen very well in History classes and his discussions about the fall of the Roman Empire which was neither Rome nor an Empire.

Nick: What was the famous line ~~about~~ about the gold in them thar hills?

Nick: The university had a lot of very warm feelings back then. We were very poor, very, but there is a ~~sense~~ sense you were working even during the period we were working we were working for very low salaries. I kidded Henry Littlefield on my recent 50th birthday party when I said that I stood up and said Henry it was great, you gave me my first contract for \$3,800/yr which I think netted <sup>\$1</sup>118 twice a month. Henry stood up and said, Yes, but I gave you a title. I think Henry gave everyone a title but no one had any money. When my first child, Susan, was born, I got two a ~~few~~ hundred raise and every child after that, he gave me a \$200. raise regardless of the time of the year.

Allen: And those of the faculty didn't get that.

Vic: Yes but you had the summers off.

Allen: I had to teach during the summer to survive.

Nick: It was a different set of purposes. For instance when I was Purch. Agent, Henry had a motto and that was that everybody, the faculty were given a file drawer, not a file cabinet so everytime we bought a file cabinet, we had to have 4 keys made for it which always baffled Bob Factor and the people at Universal Business and at all supply stores that we had to have four keys because everytime we got four faculty on, Henry gave them one file drawer each and reasonable access to a telephone which meant we had a telephone in the ~~in~~ hallway and 7 faculty offices shared it. That was his method of trying to control expenditures in days when we had telephones which were not direct dial, we had an operator. You had to call Elsie up and get the outside line to make a telephone call and she plugged in but it was the only method we had for controlling what was and we thought were rising costs. In my freshman year at UB, I don't know what yours, Vic, was but I think I paid \$275. my first semester

Allen: That's about what it was, yes.

Nick: And maybe it went to \$325. or \$350. by the time I graduated in 1957 which

was unusual number and we were able to get work scholarships which paid half of that by working 180 hrs., 12 hrs. a week.

Allen: What did you do on your work scholarship

Nick: Well I was the asst., so to speak, in the evening office under Jim Southouse and answered the telephone from 5 o'clock until nine and did a little studying with the time when Gus Seamon would be in two nights. He was in on Tues. and Thurs, Jim Southouse was in on Mon. and Wedn. and we covered the office 12 hrs. a week and I got half of my tuition which might amount to \$150. for 180 hrs. of work. I thought it was fantastic, ended up only paying \$150. for tuition.

Allen: I had a similar situation at Yale. I drove the launch for the crew.

Nick: We had the bookstore, of course in the old Carriage House behind Cortright manned by Mae Bigsbee and Mrs. Ropp and Mrs. Boldakoff who lived upstairs over the bookstore.

Allen: Did you know Alexis Boldakoff?

Nick: Yes I did. He was just getting out when I came because he was buildings and grounds. Bill Nowlan came on the scene. And later on Bill Nowlan worked for me as my park supt. when I was mayor of Bpt. for 4 yrs. and but it was always a different kind of activity. The management of the univ. at that time was in the hands of Littlefield in terms of the business operation. Littlefield had Gordon Hubbard in the business office and Bill Nowlan in Buildings and Grounds.

Allen: All right, earlier ~~again~~ at dinner we talked about the role of the trustees at this time.

Nick: Very strong

Allen: Especially since you are a trustee now.

Nick: It is a little different. Then they voted on ?, we don't vote on very much now unless it is unanimous but the likes of the Bodines who was the chairman at the time I started and Silliman was the vice chairman, Ike Schine was the treasurer and Cohen was the secretary. And it had the likes of Fred

Carstenson and Chaffee was just about on his way out at that time. Fred Carstenson of The Black Rock Bank who would later become State National Bank was very strong. He was chairman of Buildings and Grounds Dept. These people had a different kind of interest in the University. It was an active working Board of Trustees and they literally chaired committees and they had to sign checks and as I was commenting earlier we dreaded having to go if Bodine was out of town to get checks. Every check that was above \$5,000.

Allen: Above \$5,000.

Nick: Above \$5,000. at that time.

Allen: That had gone up considerably. In '47, it was \$500.

Nick: Above \$5,000. in the later years had to be signed by a Trustee and all payroll transfers, regardless of size, had to be signed by a Trustee. And so if Bodine was out of town, we had to go to Silliman or Ike Schine and Ike Schine was extremely difficult. You ducked that one under all costs. I mean you literally prepared the checks ahead of time if Ike was going to be the only one in town. Fred Silliman was better but he asked a lot of questions. Bodine was easy.

Allen: What type of questions?

Nick: Why are we transferring this kind of money, are you sure we can cover this amount, why are we paying this amount to such and such a person and we have we gotten bids this price even though its over the amount of dollars and he really asked some detailed questions and all of which I had to know the answers to and I think I was sent down by Gordon Hubbard to do it. The Trustees were extremely involved. Very deeply involved in the <sup>management</sup> finances of the institution and they were divided too and there were different concepts that each one stood for but the difference was they had, they were very university oriented and very Bridgeport oriented, contrary to what we are today. Very closely tied in.

Vic: That was what I was going to say. That they were business men who were interested in the city and the development of Bridgeport as a city and recognized the value of the university. Part of that time it was the Jr. College but no real university

that would meet the needs of the community.

Nick: Newman Marsillius was another tremendous. He was there then and was active then.

Allen: Was Sumner Simpson still on the Board?

Nick: Sumner Simpson had just gotten on when I came aboard.

Vic: He was still on.

Nick: His Son

Allen: Bill Simpson took over. Sumner Simpson was a very very early supporter.

But he seldom attended meetings. Why did he stay on?

Nick: I don't know. What was his connection?

Allen: I think it was because he was a big donor.

Nick: Of course in those days a donor was maybe \$500.

Allen: No, no

Nick: Well, our really only big donor, two donors were, of course the Carlsons. And when we built the Library back in 1955 when we opened the first segment of Carlson Library which now I understand is something else. Those two men were huge. I mean we had celebrations for two days on the Carlson opening of this first building on our campus.

Vic: I was involved in all those activities.

Nick: The Klein Memorial, the convocation, the dedication in front of the building I mean we just went "bananas" for two whole days. I was the Student Council Pres. which indeed is where I met my wife. She was the secretary.

Vic: It was a tremendous?? because it was a major development for the university and William Carlson's background it self is ?? was very happy to become established in the greater Bridgeport area and felt very, very close almost paternal to the university.

Nick: He really did and of course the second one was Mr. Dana.

Allen: Did you know Dana

Nick: Yes.

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Allen: Tell us about Charlie

Nick: Well, a couple of stories which I think are very . He drove up one day in his 1949 Cadillac with his secretary-driver whatever you might call her and came in and the only two people, it was a Friday afternoon, and the only two people in Cartwright Hall were Al Diem and myself. And in the back of his car he had a moose head that he decided to give to the University. And wanted Al and I to remove it. Well Diem wasn't about to remove that moose head and I got a couple of people from the Maintenance Dept. and we took the moose head out and we took it inside and of course we later hung it in the Student Center .

Vic: In the private dining room.

Nick: I remember, it was December and Littlefield called me over to his office. And he said I have to have you go to New Haven. And I ran over from Fairfield Hall which was across from the old bookstore. And Mr. Dana had a substantial check . Hundreds of thousands of dollars, it was in the six figures. It was a dividend check literally which he turned over and signed over to Yale - New Haven in the last few days of the year. I guess a tax donation and I drove up and delivered to Yale-New Haven. I did go down to his house a couple of times to get some things. His home in I guess it was Wilton, over the railroad tracks and down. A home I would not have believed to be owned by a man of his ~~expense~~ wealth. But he was an amazing kind of character with his woollen plaid shirts and his slippers

Vic: Like Teddy Roosevelt

Nick: I guess he was tied in to Teddy and he was active in the legislature in New York and was in one of Roosevelt's campaigns for governor

Vic: At this time, rumor was that he owned the old Locomobile plant

Nick: Down by the seawall.

Allen: Who found Dana?

Nick: Well there was always the question. There was I think Jim Halsey got it, planned it through a letter writing procedure and he got ahold of Dana who called. It was really I think the first contact with Him Halsey. The real nuturing of

Dana I think was Henry Littlefield and I think the combination was very effective. There is no question that without Dana we would not have made the moves we did in construction.

Vic: I remember a story about the first time he came he came in unannounced into Cortright Hall through the back door. Just a few secretaries around and at the time he had on his plaid shirt, dirty mustache and old coat and they really didn't think he was anything .

Nick: White socks and black shoes .

Vic: They were ready to tell him to "get lost". Finally, I guess, they steered him into Jim Halsey .

Nick: He was a very unique guy for the institution because he was the first one of the people. Now we had people later on, obviously Arnold Bernhard and a lot of others who have been very strong supporters of the university and really Dana was there when there were not many others.

Allen: And when we absolutely needed him.

Nick: Absolutely. We would have never built the Dana Science Hall. It would never have been accomplished . Actually, less than half the building finally<sup>as it</sup> came out. I always remember the tucking underneath the Dana Lecture Hall, the whole audio visual Dept. thought we were wasting space and????we should be tucking floors underneath there and basement was extra space and he gave us extra money

Vic: They were not going to excavate a basement.

Nick: And a matching funds is another thing he came along with. And of course they all ???????? for in the Jr. College ???????

He had , Of course in those days when I first started working at the university we had I went to the Business Office we did registered literally around the clock - never stopped. We started registering in the gym we started before the gym was around in the Technology Building on several floors with Earl Bigsbee in charge of all registration, ~~making~~ cards and going to your individual people and running across the hall. Then the next step would be to move into the Dana, Fones Hall finally into the Dental Hygiene offices when they closed at night in Dana Hall



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Fran Dolan would leave and???across the hall and register people right into November. Or depending upon how much money we needed for that semester . We'd start people several week's late. Frank Wright and I used to travel to Danbury and Stamford and to the hospitals, Bridgeport Hospital . He talking and writing up the forms and I would be taking the people's money and we'd sign up additional people. As long as it took to get enough money. To balance the budget.

Vic: I liked Bern Dibner very much too.

Allen: Yes

Vic: And fantastic library that he had and he would cradle the books that he had that were three and four hundred years old. He would hold a book like you would hold a baby .

Nick: And very importantly he was a key guy.

Vic: The Science Hall of Honor on the Dana Building. He made quite a production out of that for many years. I don't know whether they have anything for that

Allen: Yes, for time to time.

Nick: He was a scholar . He was very scholarly even though we were trying to survive

Vic: Is the Dibner Library still active .

Allen: Very very much so . They have a full time curator, and although I guess he's  
(Dibner)  
a life trustee/now . Still very much interested in the library.

Nick: God, Bill he must be as old as you and I. How old is Bern Dibner.

Allen: He's got to be well into his 80's and still as sharp memory. The last time I ran into him he remembered everything and we had quite a conversation. His wife also.

Nick: Each building that we built down there after I got into the Business Office I got involved in the building and construction of every building and that included, well I think almost every building that we built on the university campus beyond the Carlson Library, the Gymnasium and the North and South Hall, Bodine Hall and Schine Hall, Cooper and

Allen: Wellington Walker was the architect

Nick: Well what I did is we went out and made an arrangement with all the office furniture people. Universal Business and as with the idea that any used furniture they took in, we took. So faculty desks basically what we said was every time we get a heavy desk, we'll buy it. Everytime you get a Bank of England swivel chair or a Bank of England straight chair, these were these curved chairs we'd buy it and we store them and we would, Bob Factor would put a coat of shellac on them and we'd buy that piece of furniture. Dictaphone Corporation would give us dictaphones, some of them dated back to the old grinding machines, believe it or not. We used to clean them, they were the tubes and we would scrape them down after you dictated them until finally they got to be the belts, plastic belts. Dictaphone would give us a certain number a year, the whole philosophy was we just didn't have money to buy stuff and everything was done never bought new equipment, never bought new furniture, never bought new files or anything else. And we used what they called E and I cooperative out of Kansas City which had a whole series of distributors who sold to universities who bought through E and I at low prices. When we furnished the dormitories it was incredible to buy furniture. Troy Sunshade company decided they would use us to design a desk and a chair and some furniture for dormitories and we got ??? prices and we created the Troy Sunshade University of Bridgeport Chair and then we had a bed manufacture up in the north end who was a friend of Henry's who created the Bridgeport bed which was angle irons turned up so that the mattress wouldn't slip off the bed and I forget the name of the Jewish man who manufactured it. We had a great guy by the name of Arthur Lunin who was the owner of Franklin Furniture who literally gave the university furniture at peanuts, very reasonable. Arthur and Gladys Lunin were the daughter and son in law of Frank Jacoby and of course the Jacoby Lectures. He was a great part of the institution and literally through Franklin Furniture we bought and a man by the name of Wallman bought thousands and thousands of this furniture. And we had, in my own wedding, we got married in August and in September we were opening up Shelton Hall and I got called back from my honeymoon because we

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had to ~~men~~ open the dormitory and some furniture got delivered even ~~though~~ though??? Two other times we had hurricanes at the time we had North and South hall we had something like 300 mattresses in the basement and the the hurricane came and flooded the basement. I didn't know what I was going to do. I found Bob Dispirito, who was the football coach, and I said I got a problem here. Can you help me? He sent his 50 football guys up and they threw those 300 mattresses up the stairs and out the windows and up to the higher levels in about 30 minutes and saved them from being flooded. All the cots ??? we had to do these things and we had no money and our decorators were Jeanie Littlefield who helped us and she put together a committee and a couple of people, Betty Jensen whose husband John was on the board

Vic: On the Associates's Board

Allen: He was on the Board of Trustees, Alumni Trustee.

Nick: Jeanie and she'd get Bodine's wife, Betty Bodine, as a committee to work with me. Well you can imagine me at 23 yrs. old, trying to talk to the wife of the Chairmen of the Trustees and the wife of the Vice President of the University trying to convince them what color schemes and draperies and the other thing we did a lot was reupholster furniture. We had Brown Bros. who just reupholstered everything we ever had, we never threw anything out. We just kept fixing. And ??? Henry's concept was that we had to kind of control costs wherever we could and whatever we did we did.

Vic: Another unique thing I think the University did was to establish these endowed professorships. I don't know ??? Certainly in that area

Nick: Chairs

Vic: Chairs ???where you were able to <sup>either</sup> attract

Nick: The only way ??? Kind of professor's salaries.

Allen: Oh, I know very well.

Nick: What did you start at?

Allen: I started at \$2,400.

Nick: LAUGH, LAUGH, LAUGH!!!

Nick: I was pretty good at \$3,800.

Allen: Well, you've got to remember that was in '47. You got your \$3,800. when?

Nick: I got mine in '57, ten years later.

Allen: Well, it was about the same thing.

Nick: \$118. twice a month was what I took home and when I got married and I think my wife made more as secretary to Nelson North at Citytrust.

Allen: You know you can't miss the point that your wife was my first secretary as a student.

Nick: She had a work scholarship. Actually I had a girl, a woman come in, I should say girl come in to interview me the other day. Mary Gray Ford who is now known by another name. She is married but who graduated from Weylister with us back ???. She came in for an interview and you can't really believe who you are back then. Well you graduated with me back in 1957 from the Univ. of Bridgeport and sure as life, but she has been down here I guess now 15 years and applied for a position with us which unfortunately she's making too much money. But the University employees were willing to take a lot less and people who worked in Maintenance and in. I always remember the strike we had. It lasted, I guess about 4 weeks which the Maintenance people, Al Diem and Bill Nowlan and I every night night at eleven o'clock would go around and lock up every building with the police walking with us. And clean the, my great responsibility was cleaning the johns in Cortright Hall for three weeks. I had to clean the johns in Cortright and Fones Hall and the bookstore and the poor guys who were on the lines were friends of ours. Webber Spain, Carl Monopoly

Allen: Scotty

Nick: Scotty and the black, I can still see him

Allen: Leroy

Nick: Leroy. I still see him occasionally and some of the maids who worked in the dorms who were lovely people and there was a man by the name of Clint who worked in the Student Center who walked on the picket line but he knew every day at

three o'clock it was time for him to put out the garbage in the incinerator and he would get off the picket line, go in and take care of the garbage and come back out on the picket line, so it was a friendly strike but Al Biem and I and Marsha Buell and Bill Nowlan, we were the committee to fight the strike and we beat the union. The union was headed by the Teamsters, a guy named Cleary was the teamster man fighting us but we beat it that time. The strike was broken and people came back to work and we gave them a pretty good raise and the union stayed out for quite a while.

Allen: Let's talk about

Nick: Interestingly, it got in by some of the people that Lee Miles, I kid him all the time, every time we raise this question. Some of the people he brought on board, <sup>Gerteiny</sup> ~~Reidney~~, and some of the others

Allen: Faculty

Nick: Faculty who created those problems. Parsons, Schmidt, Al Schmidt.

Allen: Al wasn't too much in love with the union. Let's talk about some memorable characters. Administrators, Faculty and Students.

Nick: Simon Moshowitz, swinging his briefcase. I never knew how he would walk down the street.

Allen: He had two of them. Did you know the old story about it. Nobody ????

~~Nick~~ He would slam the car door so hard, it would practically turn the car up

Nick: He was a real character. Bill DiSiero whose wife Ann DiSiero spent a weekend with us last week who was in Political Science and was great ability to crown the freshman queen. He loved that. He and Fran Dolan.

Vick: I had to admire Joe ~~Roucek~~.

Nick: Joe ~~Roucek~~.

Vic: As much criticism as he received he and he would create all these dinners and they had the churches and groups put on these dinners and we would all have a great time and we would really learn about life and these activities

Nick: Eaton Van/<sup>Wort</sup>Read was my dean and was probably one of the straightest and proper

Deans. All the deans I think were kind of individual. Jayne, Bigsbee Tripinsee who was a character in his own right. John Rassias who was a great teacher. It was a sad thing we lost him.

Allen: John was in the first class that I taught.

Nick: We should have never lost him to Dartmouth. He was a great teacher. The French teacher who was the chairman of the Dept. - Martin?

Allen: Eric Marcus.

Nick: Yes, chairman of the Foreign Language Dept. A woman whom I admired although I never agreed with her politically was the philosophy teacher.

Allen: Anita Reiss

Nick: Anita Reiss who I thought was a great, real classy teacher. There is a lot of characters.

Vic: Mike when he became head of the Biology Dept. Mike Sommers.

Allen: He was also a student of mine.

Vic: Yes, yes , is he still around?

Allen: He retired and Hugo is the chairman. Mike has problem with his eyes and is only teaching one course .

Nick: Marie Jaeger. Superb woman in the Weylister School. Bill Nowlan who is a friend of mine and we spent a lot of time and Hubbard. Tough, tough but they were not necessary characters. Al Dickason who did a tremendous job with Campus Thunder

Vic: Frank DeLeo

Nick: What a super teacher

Vic: He really made that business school

Nick: I couldn't pass statistics until I took it with Frank during the summer. In addition to accounting, he taught Statistics and he was the only guy I understood statistics from. Compared to the others Hans Apel and Herman Block. Block drove me nuts. He was the chairman of my department in Industrial Relations . Tough guy

Vic: VanderKroef. He knew his material. Does he still do a lot of consulting or is he

Allen: He still does a lot but he still spends summers overseas.

Nick: He was good. He was excellent.

Vic: I mentioned Chauncey Fish before. He was a real character. One day on the second floor of Cortright Hall, he took over the office where Dean Bigsbee use to be and decided he wasn't being recognized and so he was going to change his personality and he did. Out of the blue one day came storming down the hall talking and shouting at the top of his voice , "I'm going to tell you Lloyd, you do what I tell you." I'm not sure of the exact wording but he was a character.

Nick: I had a lot of events, the university covered the department of life and I was having lunch with when Kennedy <sup>was killed</sup> /?? and I had Eaden Whiteman. Eaden Whiteman and Ray Lyddy. I was president of the JayCees in Bridgeport that year and Eaden Whiteman if you remember was, had his hair combed and was doing publicity spots as a stand in for the president and so he was out there getting off the bus and so he was out there and we were kidding him about Kennedy and we were having lunch in the student center in the private dining room. Six of us talking about the involvement of the Barnum Festival and JayCee and he went out and he came back in and said the president has been shot and we were laughing "oh yeah, what do you want to do, take over the lead"? "Oh no, I'm serious" And I ran next door to the Scribe office on the third floor of the old Alumni Hall before it burned down and listened to the tapes and found ??? and that whole event which I thought rather difficult and I stood with ??? and of course I was director student center, the old student center when ~~x~~ it burned down which was a sad night and in fact I still have home, I think my wife threatens to throw them out yearly three posts from the top of the old student center and three of the posts from the stairway going up and

Vic: I have some of the ///??? from P.T. Barnum

Nick: I want to do something with these to memorize to remember that

Vic: I have one of the lion's heads that was

Nick: From Barnum

Vic: Not Barnum, it was right down next to the Engineering Building.

Nick: By the old ???

Vic: Bill Nowlan had taken down, taken it down to the old workshop in the shed and it was ly ing out in the back. <sup>The hose</sup> / t was partially chopped off and I asked him if I could have it and he said "go ahead".

Nick: We use to fight with the city of Bridgeport in those days.

Vic: It is out in our back yard here in Washington and flowers are growing around it

Nick: In the back entrance of the the Warner Dorm, there was a back up place where you ~~xx~~ drove trucks up to and I forget the street, I guess its Broad Street and there was a tree right smack in front of the back up area and we kept asking the city to take it down. The city kept fighting us and we kept asking and the day before the delivery of all the furniture, I said I don't know what I;m going to do. We've got the truck coming tomorrow so he got one of his men with a backhoe and he said the backhoe will just grade this area and all of a sudden he said now keep backing up, keep backing up and the backhoe backed up and knocked the tree down. And Bill said, "oops". I said, "we got the tree down" and we reported to the city that there was an accident that the backhoe had backed up and we got the tree out of there in time for the trucks to move in with the furniture. It was a different style. Later on during the difficult '60s when I was smart enough to take the job as Director of Students Center. I became Director of Student Center in ~~x~~ September of 68 and lived through all of the period of the Kent State and people taking over my office. One day I sat with about, literally 50 black, young black students who took over my office for four hours while I was in the chair and I couldn't get out of my desk or my chair. They sat on my desk. I tried to do my work. I was scared as hell. They were scared as hell and we didn;t know what to do and finally after about three or four hours I said, don't you think it's about time we all left and I think it was kind of a break. They were lloking for something and they left. Another time John??? they were breaking down the front door to take over the building and John Cox and I jumped out the window out onto the ledge there a dd????? got out of the building and of course they took



control. Cortright Hall at three in the morning and difficult, difficult. Ivan the terrible was to get involved with a whole pile of kids who really ing. fouled up and the university who was incapable of respond/ Just incapable heiarachy The hierarchy, they were in a dream world . They had no s ense of. I was fairly outspoken. John Cox was outspoken but the bulk of the university administration did not know how to respond. They wanted to believe that these kids were really just kids that were off base and didn't know what they were doing as apposed to really ??? That was a very, I think the worst two years that I ever spent was that period of 68, 70. The campus was sad. We closed down the school early one year, the demonstrations in front of the student center. A mess, what I consider a mess, the lack of control by the administration and the trustees but its not only at our university but all over the country.

Allen: Tell us about John Cox

Nick: Very unique , warm individual. He had his days. He tried to be an administrator, sometimes he made some mistakes but I would say there is nobody outside of Jim Halsey and Henry Littlefield that I think has a greater bearing on the institution than John Cox . He believed in the institution he believed in ?? I never worked for him . If I had, it might have been a different story but he genuinely listened to a lot of people. He had a personal relationship, I had a personal relationship with him. If I had not had John Cox or Henry Littlefield, I wouldn't have been able to become mayor or done what I've done. Literally there's a whole Gerteiny group on the campus headed by / among others who when I got involved in politics wanted me to be fired from the University and said I was affecting the tax status of the university and literally had me fired twice. In deed when I ran for mayor I quit the university two times and took no pay and ran for mayor. which was crazy and how my wife stayed with me and literally left what was a big promising job \$7,000 probably to run for mayor. And John Cox supported me and when this group including the vice president at that time wanted to fire me, Al Diem, it was John Cox and Henry Littlefield who protected me. I considered him to be my closest friend and I think he was a very warm person and held the

university in high esteem.

Allen: Vic, you worked for him?

Vic: Very briefly . I did work for him but we were not that close. I really admired Al Wolff and Don Kern quite a bit. I admired them not as very close friends although Al Wolff was a friend to everyone and I admired Don Kern for his really his, he just seemed in control constantly of

Nick: Total control

Vic: Everything. He gave that impression. He looked like a college administrator some people didn't.

Nick: Except for those shoes he used to wear in the summer time. Al Wolff of course was a great Dean of Students who. I always remember Al was one of the most understanding human beings and he had a great belief in human rights and believed in with the rights of the Negro and but to Al it was the Negro. It wasn't the Black and when the Black movement came in and Black is beautiful and all of the concepts of the Negro and Black movement. He had an awful hard time understanding the difference between Negro and Black and that he would not throw out some of his beliefs just because this new moderate group was coming in. But Al Wolff really saved me. I could have been thrown out of, he and George Stanley, hell, I was ready to be thrown out because I liked to play around with the politics and Student Council and the IFC and everything else there was and at the last semester and I needed 19 hours to graduate and literally without him and George Stanley pushing me to get by Yakel's class and a few others, I'd have never passed. Al was

Vic: How is Ralph Yakel. Is he

Allen: I haven't heard

Nick: He was tough on me. Man , money and banking, it was difficult for me. I wouldn't tell my partners that now but I had a hard time with Economics. Jim Fenner was another interesting guy. Talk about characters. This guy never wore overcoat.

Allen: Never owned an overcoat.

Nick: Only had that scarf around his neck and the New York Times under his arm.

He read the New York Times every day.

Allen: And he has owned three cars. He bought a new one, you know

Nick: Did he really? Oh it had to be a 1940, if he bought it new.

Allen: No, no, this was a Colt, brand new after~~x~~ he retired.

Nick: A character, real character.

Vic: I wonder how much he's worth. He was pretty wise about spending his money.

Nick: Oh gee , he was cheap. I used to kid him. He wasn't wise, he was cheap.

Allen: I played golf with him and Em Chamberlain about a month to six weeks ago.

Nick: Chamberlain's wife died.

Allen: Yes and he has remarried.

Nick: Oh, has he? Isn't that interesting

Allen: A very nice gal.

Nick: His wife's name was Anne

Allen: She was a ball but Em has had a hip replacement

Nick: He's got to<sup>be</sup> /up there too.

Allen: Yup. Still plays about the same game of golf he did when we first started.

But Fenner was with us and I took a cart and

Nick: Fenner was probably too cheap to pay for the cart

Allen: I offered to let him ride and he wouldn't do it and he pulled out after a while

a fairly new ball and ~~said~~ then said you know this is from my 1975 bag. After his shot, he said, I'll put it back

Nick: He was a character

Vic: Dean Ropp, not really a character but very strong on principal. I think he was someone everyone admired.

Nick: His lack of calling people. We were kidding at dinner.

Allen: Wes. I had never run into anyone that he called by anything other than his last name.

Vic: He would give his lecture about chewing. People would ask him why do you chew as much as you do. You've got to chew your food at least 30 times in order to properly masticate it, digest it and he would go on and on.

Allen: Well he used to teach, among other things, health. Back in the Junior College days he taught many many things and among the things that he taught was Health Education.

Nick: Another fellow, I'm trying to think of his name. Chairman of the Biology Dept.

Allen: Fran Dolan

Nick: Before Fran Dolan

Allen: Bill Everett

Nick: Bill Everett. He was a southern guy, southern accent and was quite a teacher

Allen: Bill was a great guy. One of the early, early faculty.

Nick: He lived along

Allen: Atlantic Street. The university sold him the house.

Nick: He was quite a character .

Allen: His wife used to work in the bookstore

Nick: Right

Allen: Al Diem.

Nick: An interesting guy. I first saw Al Diem when he was vice president of Penn State then and when, as a speaker at a JayCee function and he came to work for us. He did a lot for the institution. He was a good solid man. He taught me a lot about management, he really did. Sometimes I thought he was harsh but he was truly an industrial manager and knew how to force you into making decisions. He had a very warm side to him that not many people would see. Al had a lot of trouble. Of course he had one child who was handicapped and later died who he had very strong feelings for. Of course he had the two kids too and interestingly his daughter

graduated from Salem College and my daughter later when to Salem College and graduated but he was a solid guy, a good community man and a good manager and changed the institution and took it out of the eye shades.

Vic: He is credited with establishing a line of credit

Nick: The whole line of credit

Vic: To build its buildings and any time they needed money they just would go to the banks and he would convince

Nick: In fact the whole lighting system at the university, the light poles and so on Al Diem really conceived that. He worked the Dana donations well. He worked he was a skilled administrator and a very solid guy and he played a tremendous role between Henry Littlefield and Jim Halsey and it became the trend for to a degree to and everytime we moved one step forward ?????

Allen: Were either of you there Manning was President

Nick: Fortunately, I left. He came just, I guess he came in Sept. and I left in Sept. to run for mayor. And I think Ted was a , the job he's doing now from what I understand. He was a quick thinker, he was not a manger and he was afraid of the academic vice president ??? planner but he was not a manager. All during the time I was mayor I kept talking to some of those trustees, Fred Silliman who was the chairman of the trustees . My God, you better make a decision down there. This was in '74 and they brought Lee back.

Vic: I didn't get to know him personally. I didn't have much of an impression about him, he was always off by himself and was not involved in day to day activity in which I was involved in and so again the impression was not a very strong individual as a president.

Nick: He gave me the ~~only~~ honorary doctor of Laws and signed it and so I guess ??? He was not a manager . It was not an easy time to take over. You had the Littlefield-Halsey regime and the period of time was not an easy time.

Allen: This is going to be, knowing what I do, and coming very closely associated with Lee as a successor to Manning, and my earlier knowlege of the Manning era is ~~going~~ going to be a very very difficult thing ~~to~~ to manage.

Nick: You mean when Lee leaves

Allen: No no the history is supposed to go up to the accession of Lee although I have an epilogue and so I end on a very low point of the Manning administration. And that is going to be a difficult way to end this volume.

Nick: ?????? And Manning did not. Since the university has only had now five Cortright presidents. He was the only real weak per se president. / Halsey and Littlefield were strong and Miles is strong. I don't agree with some of each one of them but

Allen: Did you ever see a strong person that everyone agreed with

Nick: ?????? You guys touched Cortright more than I did. I still have a little bit of He would come into that back office .....

Allen: I'm going to advance this tape as we are almost to the end of it and then I want to talk about Cortright. You knew Cortright when he had an office in Cortright Hall.

Nick: Only in the ending days.

Allen: What did you, what recollections do you have.

Nick: He had the squeakiest voice ever, am I right? Do you remember much of him Vic?

Vic: No I don't. When he'd come in he'd see / Littlefield only for a short while and he looked very fragile and you had to help him in.

Nick: He was a dreamer and I understood he was Supt. of Schools back in the days of Buckingham regime.

Vic: He obviously had a lot of ability.

Nick: He was president for a long time.

Allen: Nineteen years.

Nick: That's the longest anybody been president.

Vic: The Jr. College had an excellent reputation

Allen: It did, it did and (SNEEZE, OUCH MY EARS). Starting the Jr. College when they did was almost a classic example of bad timing. It started the first of Feb. in '28, just a year before the crash, went through a depression, / a recession. We needed 200 full time students to make a go of it. They were constantly in a deficit

position and Trustees like Fones and Schiott and others dug into their pockets.

Nick: Schiott was , Schiott Hall was when I was a freshman in college, they had just opened that was the old Curley home and it was bought on the university campus but some of those original trustees really, as you say, dug into their own pockets, signed notes, paid bills and did things to make it survive.

Allen: Well we got the old campus building because Fones took an option on it and sold it for \$10,000 down and took a mortgage on the rest of it and then his heirs gave us ~~xxxxxx~~ the mortgage afterwards.

Nick: It is hard to believe

Allen: It is an absolute miracle that we survived during that time in order to be able to meet the opportunity when the veterans came back.

Nick: Yet the whole student, I tell you when I was a student, the whole student crew student activities - developed there were a lot of interesting people. Brewer

Allen: Floyd Brewer

Nick: Floyd Brewer who was director, who had, Vic never got this 'cause Vic's office had only been well organized but Floyd Brewer, is your office still the same way now.

Vic: Oh yes

Nick: But Floyd Brewer use to have piles and piles on his desk and at the end of every academic year, he just threw everything out, just cleaned the office, the garbage everything on this desk, his drawers cleaned out and said I'll start over again in September, if it's important, they'll come back and if it's not, ???  
And he later when on to the Univ. of Cincinnati to be the head of their student center and was replaced by Jo Hotchkiss and Jo was replaced by George Stanley  
George Stanley was an excellent person to deal with.

Allen: Yes, I have fond memories of George

Nick: A great guy and then of course went on to another school over there in Pennsylvania.  
I used to get a letter from him occasionally, but there just was. Dave Field

Allen: Yes

Nick: What he did with the Arnold College Group and how he supported it and was very strong in his work. The gal who litterally helped me and fed me many times when I didn't have any money was the head of the student center cafeteria. I'm trying to think of her name.

Vic: I can picture her

Nick: Grace Martin. Who literally whenever a student/advanced money and Fannie couldn't afford to eat the gal behind the counter who always gave you a little extra if you were hungry and stuff like that. There was a different sense of the university. Maybe it's better now, I don't know. I sometimes. Better salaries, I'm not sure you have better faculty. I don't think there's better attention given by faculty to students.

Vic: Especially in the early years after the war when the veterans did come back and all the faculty saying they were by far the best students they had as a group. There were students of all ages practically with a real interest in learning and feeling they were going to make something of their lives they were going to get an education and they took advantage of it and it probably is one of the brightest spots in the life and history of the university.

Nick: What fraternity were you in, Vic, ADO

Vic: No, Alpha, Sigma Phi

Allen: And you were

Nick: I was SLX, and you were the advisor to ADO

Nick: SLX, we really started out by taking everybody that everybody else blackballed so we ended up with Jews, Venuzualians, Blacks, Whites and everytime that Theta Sigma rejected somebody, we went and got that person and ended up with a committment that we were going to take over the campus, that was our goal. Every organization so we were president of the Psychology Club, SociologyColoquium and political science and in fact I kid a little bit, CSIO which was Connecticut Student Legislature. My first campaign was to work for a gal by the name of Peggy O'Shaunessy who later turned out to be Margaret Heckler who is now just getting



out as Secty. of Health and Human Services. And we were talking about that two months ago when she was running for Speaker of the House and she was went to Albertus Magnus and was and in 1956 they had a campaign to elect a mayor of Bridgeport and I ran against Bill Wright who later on ???? at the university by a fellow by the name of Sam Goldberg who was my fraternity brother and I won by the great margin of 3 votes which is exactly what I won by in the election for mayor. I got the nine in the recount but it was 3 votes on election night and I became mayor for a day in 1956 with Jasper McLevy.

Vic: I was mayor for a day with Jasper McLevy.

Allen: Jasper was quite a character.

Nick: He was a character. You would go and vist him in his office with his pants hiked above his knees, sunning his legs on ~~State~~ Street but when I was mayor there I had all this council and I was leading the council and I was telling them to get up when the mayor walked into the room . Well of course the mayor had on an old sweater with a hole in the sleeve and his shirt coming through it, his hair was shaggy, it was the year before he got beat by Sam Tedesco and these people from out of town, they knew him from nothing and they just refused to get up and he certainly was not a big supporter of the university. I think Sam Tedesco was the first mayor that really started

Allen: Sam and then Hugh Curran.

Nick: And myself that really gave support to the university. Jasper was just not. Of course Jasper didn;t support anything.

Allen: There were a number of incidences throughout the Jr. College period when Jasper was mayor and people were trying to get the city ~~xx~~ to give scholarships to the Jr. College and it never made any headway whatsoever. They only scholarship ever to really came out of the Cortright Scholarships. And the city as such never did anything of this sort. They never seemed to have any interest in it.

Nick: Herman Steinkraus was a great supporter of the university.

Allen: Yes

Nick: He was a city person. Bill Hope.

Allen: Bill Hope was yes.

Allen: Steinkraus played another role. In the early fund raising days which were in in the 1930's as a matter of fact that were for the next ten years incidentally they were trying to collect pledges out of that fund raising because the depression came. People were advised to get Herman Steinkraus to support it/ If Herman supported it, everyone else would go along and Herman did and everyone else did excepting not everybody could pay their pledges because of the depression.

Nick: Well, Herman could sell the world. Herman's first job with the Brass Company a salesman. He became the sales manager out of Cleveland. My father, luckily in those days ??? around the plant but he became

Allen: Did you know Mrs. Oppel.

Nick: Yes, yes . A neat woman. She of course had the house down on the end of what is now University, used to be Park Place. Right? Is that right on the corner. She was quite a woman.

Allen: Mrs. Cooper

Nick: Cooper

Allen: Did you know her?

Nick: I knew Cooper only towards the end.

Allen: Alright, they were both original trustees and unsung heros because these two women perhaps were over the years the largest donors we had for many many years as I have begun to reconstruct some of the, this period. They dug ddeeply. Mrs. Cooper, for example, in the 1930 campaign, donated I think \$15,000.

Nick and Vic: Whistle!!!

Nick: That was big numbers

Allen: That was big, big money. As a matter of fact she was the largest ~~donor~~ donor to that particular campaign.

Nick: Well, she got a building named after her. Cooper-Chaffee but the first dorm we ever built, Cooper and H. Almon Chaffee who was a character in himself with his mustache.

Allen: Tell us a little bit about Chaffee.

Nick: Well he was just at the end. He was Pres. of City Savings Bank and it was just

towards the end when I came as a student and started to work there he was still on board but he there is a great, great picture of him in Chaffee Hall sitting with his robes on, hat and glasses .

Allen: A funny thing happened on that. When I was Lee's assistant the girl who was president of Chaffee Hall called me up and says, "we were rummaging around and we found this oil painting and we don't know who it is or what it's about and its got a couple of holes in it and so forth. So I went over and it was Chaffee's picture, and the girls wanted to do something about it. So I knew a guy over in Stratford who was a great restorer and got him to restore this for, I think, a \$125.

Nick: That was one of the great pictures. It use to hang, I mean, there is a hung picture of Henry Littlefield which I think is one of the best in the blue room They did want one of Jim Halsey sitting behind the desk. I can remember with his hand on the desk, it looked like he was dead. They later redid it. Do you remember that, Vic? It was a horrible picture of Halsey.

Allen: Those are in the Founder's Room now.

Nick: Are they?

Allen: And

Nick: Where is the Founder's Room

Allen: That's on the fifth floor of the Library, not too far from where my office is now.

Nick: Those were two great paintings. Chaffee

Allen: And the portrait of Fones is over in Fones Hall. The portrait of Cortright got stolen out of Cortright Hall, along with a portrait of Barnum.

Nick: That's too bad. They used to literally draw pictures of

Allen: They all had their photographs, their portraits made from photographs. Manning didn't and I'm sure Lee won't carry that on either.

Nick: I had mine done when I was mayor. It hangs in City Hall. Last week when I was in City Hall, nice to see yourself hung up.

Vic: Are you giving any attention to Charles McKew Paar.

Allen Yes, but this come along later. I really haven't gotten into him but

Nick: Who

Vic: Charles Mc Kew Parr

Allen: Who gave us a considerable collection on exploration.

Nick: Are you giving any attention to the Sea wall and the Buglight and Contes and all the great historical spots of the world.

Allen: Tell us a little bit about this

Nick: And Healey's Barn. My God.

Allen: Now you are bringing back some memories

Nick: Beautifull Mrs. Healey who had at least six or seven children who were priests and nuns.

Vic: were any students at the university.

Nick: ???became a nun and father who used to rent out her barn behind her house just for quiet social parties for fraternities who held Hell Nights. Poor Mrs. Healey, if she ever came out and saw those Hell Nights she would have gone through the ceiling.

Allen: I remember a few of those myself

Nick: And the Buglight which was a hang out for after Campus Thunder and other functions where you could drink beer and probably the worst hotdogs, Conte's which has a great hotdog, great chow mein, God it was a great Chow Mein sandwich and the Seawall with Nills and Richard and some of the other people who were owned it. They were Greek people and the Seawall, the Buglight and Homa's and Contes were hangouts which I would like to know how much money I spent on beer and drinks.

Mic: For a good meal in later years the Blue Teapot

Nick: The Blue Teapot, is it still open. Maloney's

Allen: It's still open.

Nick: Maloneys is under a different name but that was a great place.

Allen: You could always get a good meal there

Nick: A good meal in Ma. loney's. In the South End, I spent a lot of time on the seawall and in the Seawall.

Allen: Speaking of seawall, I ran across a picture of me holding a class one summer down at the seawall.

Nick: My wife in one of her scrambles for my 50th birthday came up with two etchings one done of a series of towns in Connecticut which is about a hundred and some odd years old which has Bridgeport Zoo on it and another etching of this Connecticut capitol which was done back in 1860 or something like that but the seawall was the spot for a lot of fun.

Allen: Well, this has been a

Vic: I just want to make sure you gave due credit to the Bridgeport Post, The Bridgeport Herald and the radio stations for the stories they carried about the university because that helped to spread the name of the university it stimulated interest in education. The Post, Sunday Post, The Telegram especially were almost everything you gave them they would use ????

Allen: Things have changed a little bit and that is probably colored some of my thinking so I'm glad that you mention this.

Nick: Well, Post, maybe like the university has lost some of its home, strong stuff I mean it doesn't cover the same ???

Allen: Well you know one of Henry Littlefield's first jobs was Director of Public Relations

Nick: Was it really. As assistant to the president and Director of Public Relations he's a character. He hasn't changed.

Allen: I would, it's getting on so I think we will close this off. It has been a most useful and valuable taping session for me because it puts another focus on things that should be there. I would only suggest on this that if and sometime in the future you think of something else that would be useful either drop me a note or put it on a tape and send it to me and I hope I've stimulated some of your thinking on this

Vic: So many memories

Nick: I can honestly say I never had bad memories of the university of Bpt. I

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I really don't know of things that I would, I had just nothing but maybe I complained about jobs or salaries but overall I had a lot of very good solid memories.

Allen: Looking around your office you can see the university.

Nick: The obvious point of my take-off here and it has never brought me, brought me some aggravation but it has always brought a lot of good times and I don't think I would have been anywhere if I didn't have the university.

Allen: So as you think of other things drop me a note or send me a tape or whatever. It will be greatly appreciated and from time to time I may call upon either of you for a verification of a point or something like this.

Nick: Just in closing one guy we did leave out was Elmer. I was thinking of Elmer and Marcia Buell. Elmer was

Allen: The security man .

Nick: He was in security and electrician and so on in the back of the old Stamford' Hall ./<sup>Hooked</sup> Put the front porch lights up to the cellar basement and the basement lights up to the furnace and if you want to turn the furnace on you put the front porch lights on and that is the example of those old houses. You never quite knew when you threw the switch what went on and what went off.

Allen: What was Elmer's last name

Nick: Oh God, Elmer, I can't remember

Allen: He used to live up in Newtown.

Nick: He lived in Monroe and he went ., he was the assistant, first when I moved there he lived in a little cottage outside of Marina Hall, a one bedroom place right in the driveway and then he moved later on to Monroe but he was quite a character. But the hookups and wiring systems and other stuff we did in those buildings. Poor old chief of Fire from the City of Bpt., John Gleason, before he was chief he would come down and walk through these buildings and oh my God and we would say, Now John, there's nothing wrong with this and he approved some stupid back stairway in these old buildings that had no lights.

Allen: For a period of time I was Fire Marshall for the university. I had to make all these inspections.

~~All~~

Nick: Some of the contraptions that Nowlan would come up with to create offices and to build places. Some of the buildings were in such terrible shape and it was incredible. We would repaint them, cut halls

Vic: Do you remember those classrooms over in the third floor of Nichols Hall Carlson Library

Nick: And the guy --The university had some Joe Distillio . But Joe Distillio was the concrete block man. I never saw a guy throw up more concrete block in my life than Joe Distillio and his crowd . He smoked a cigar and a typical Italian and Joe Day was the plumber. Nowlan hired Joe Day to fix more broken pipes and these people came in and they did it for nothing and they got paid later on. Throw up a door, throw up a wall, put up blockades and we would do it during the summer and get paid after the kids signed up in October. These were all local guys who did all this work free. Then Trucks, Joe Distillio used to send his trucks down so we could furniture around when we didn't have trucks, just so we could be able to do something. These people hear you now, like my kids they play the violin thinking I was kidding but it is true.

Vic: There are a lot of people in the community who contributed to the university in that way who were never recognized.

Nick: Never recognized. Send down used extra carpet People used stuff. They used to send it down and we used to give them tax credit. Rugs - \$200. The thing wasn't worth \$20. and we would have a rug for some faculty office.

Allen: I think the first rug that I got was when I became an assistant.

Nick: All that stuff, tiles, what was the name of the tile guy downtown on the corner of State Street and Broad that use to come in and do all the tile and put linoleums down in some of those old bathrooms free. Fix the. There's a lot of people, Challenger, Bob Factor, Universal Business. A lot of guys who were just interested in the university but I suppose they make money in the long run.

Allen: But it helped us too

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Allen: O.K. well I'm going to close this off now, thank you very very much